

URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat and Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation have demanded Ahmedabad to be declared as 'Mega City';

(b) whether the Union Minister of State for Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation has expressed opinion during his recent Ahmedabad visit that the demand is under consideration; and

(c) if so, by when Government are likely to take a final decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATARYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the visit of MOS (UD&PA) to Gujarat, a Memorandum was submitted by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation to the Minister in which one of the requests was inclusion of Ahmedabad in the Mega City Scheme. The proposal was considered and it was not found feasible on account of the fact that the population of Ahmedabad (Urban Agglomeration) was less than 4 million as per 1991 census as against the criterion of four million and above as per 1991 census for inclusion of cities under the Scheme.

Plan to create New Civic Culture in the Country

1703. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a plan to create a new civic culture throughout the country and that there has been unanimous support from the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of his Ministry besides Mayors and the State Ministers;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether in order to achieve the said objective Government intend to set-up a commission headed by a retired Supreme Court Judge to probe the butchering of civic laws at the cost of law abiding people; and

(d) if so, by when such a commission would be set up and start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATARYA): (a) and (b) There has been a general demand from various quarters including Mayors and the State Ministers for creating a new civic culture in the country. The Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992 seeks to bring about needed reforms in the municipal governance. The State Governments are already taking action to implement agenda relating to urban sector reforms which will ultimately lead to creating a new civic culture in the country.

(c) and (d) At present, no such proposal is under consideration in the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation.

Additions and Alterations in Lutyen's Government Bungalows

1704. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large-scale additions and alterations have been carried out in most of the Lutyen type Government bungalows in New Delhi, so as to change their very nature and character; and

(b) if so, the number of such bungalows and what percentage of their total number of Lutyen type bungalows in Delhi do these constitute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATARYA): (a) No, Sir. However, some additions/alterations have been carried out in some bungalows by CPWD as per LBZ guidelines in force and after evolving proper design merging with the nature and character of the bungalows.

(b) Not applicable in view of reply (a) above.

Approval of Unauthorised Colonies

1705. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it would be justified if approval of unauthorised colonies would be done without establishing the date when these colonies actually came into existence;